

## The Preface.

**A**lthough the Writing of these Transactions, is not to be looked upon as the Business of the Royal Society: Yet, in regard they are a Specimen of many things which lie before them; Contain a great Variety of Useful Matter; Are a convenient Register, for the Bringing in, and Preserving many Experiments, which, not enough for a Book, would else be lost; and have proved a very good Ferment for the sitting Men of Uncommon Thoughts in all parts a work: And because, moreover, the want of them for these four last Years, wherein they have been discontinued, is much complained of: That the said Society may not seem now to Condemn a Work, they have formerly encouraged; or to neglect the just Expectations of Learned and Ingenious Men: They have therefore thought fit, to take care for the revival hereof, that they may be Published once every Month, or at such Times, whereof forenotice shall be given at the end of these, and the following Transactions. Neither is it doubted, but that those who desire to be accommodated herewith, will most readily endeavour, themselves, or by others, to supply and keep up that Stock of Experiments, and other Philosophical Matters, which will be necessary hereunto; with this assurance given them, That whatever they shall be pleased to communicate, shall be disposed of with all Fidelity.

Letters for this purpose, may be directed thus, For the Secretary of the Royal Society. To be left with Mr. Hunt at his House in Whale-bone Court, in Bell-Alley in Coleman Street; Or, at the Repository in Gresham College, London.

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*A Description of Pen-Park-Hole in Gloucestershire; Communicated by Sir Robert Southwel.*

**T**Here is a place in Gloucestershire called Pen Park, about three Miles from Bristol, and above three from Severn, where some Miners for Lead discovering a large Hole in the Earth: One Captain *Sturmy*, a warm, in-

inquisitive Sea-man (he has writ a large Folio of *Navigation*) would needs descend into it, and his Narrative was as followeth :

‘ Upon the second of *July* 1669. I descended by  
 ‘ Ropes affixt at the top of an old Lead-Oar Pit, four  
 ‘ Fathoms almost Perpendicular, and from thence three  
 ‘ Fathoms more obliquely, between two great Rocks,  
 ‘ where I found the Mouth of this spacious Place : from  
 ‘ which, a Mine-man and my self lowred our selves by  
 ‘ Ropes twenty five Fathoms perpendicular, into a very  
 ‘ large Place, which resembled to us the form of a  
 ‘ Horse-shoe ; for we stuck lighted Candles all the way  
 ‘ we went, to discover what we could find Remarkable.  
 ‘ At length we came to a River or great Water, which I  
 ‘ found to be twenty Fathoms broad, and eight Fathoms  
 ‘ deep. The Mine-man would have perswaded me, that  
 ‘ this River ebbed and flowed, for that some ten Fathoms  
 ‘ above the place, we now were in, we found the Wa-  
 ‘ ter had sometime been : but I proved the contrary,  
 ‘ by staying there from three hours Floud to two hours  
 ‘ Ebb, in which time we found no alteration of this Ri-  
 ‘ ver. Besides its waters were fresh, sweet and cool, and  
 ‘ the surface of this Water, as it is now at eight Fathom  
 ‘ deep, lies lower than the bottom of any part of the *Se-*  
 ‘ *vern*-Sea near us, so that it can have no community  
 ‘ with it, and consequently neither flux nor reflux, but  
 ‘ in Winter and Summer, as all Stagna’s, Lakes and Loughs  
 ‘ (which I take this to be) have. As we were walking  
 ‘ by this River thirty two Fathoms under ground, we  
 ‘ discovered a great hollownes in a Rock, some thirty  
 ‘ foot above us ; so that I got a Ladder down to us, and  
 ‘ the Mine-man went up the Ladder to that Place, and  
 ‘ walk’d into it about threescore and ten Paces, till he  
 ‘ just lost sight of me, and from thence chearfully call’d  
 ‘ to me, and told me he had found what he looked  
 ‘ for, a Rich Mine. But his joy was presently changed  
 ‘ into amazement, and he returned affrighted by the  
 ‘ sight of an Evil Spirit, which we cannot perswade him  
 ‘ but he saw, and for that reason will go thither no  
 ‘ more.

‘ Here

‘ Here are abundance of strange Places, the flooring  
 ‘ being a kind of a white Stone, enameled with Lead  
 ‘ Oar, and the pendent Rocks were glazed with Salt-  
 ‘ Peter, which distilled upon them from above, and time  
 ‘ had putrified.

‘ After some hours stay there, we ascended without  
 ‘ much hurt, other than scratching our selves in divers  
 ‘ places by climbing the sharp Rocks. But four days  
 ‘ together, after my return from thence, I was troubled  
 ‘ with an unusual and violent Head-ach, which I impute  
 ‘ to my being in that Vault. This is a true account of that  
 ‘ Place so much talkt of.

This Captain *Sturmy* falling from his Head-ach into a  
 Feaver and dying ; what from his Death, and the Opi-  
 nion of an Evil Spirit, no body was willing to have any  
 more to do with the said Hole from that time to this.

But Captain *Collins* Commander of the *Merlin* Yeacht  
 (who is by His Majesty appointed to take a Survey of the  
 Coast of *England*) coming into the *Severn* to that end,  
 and visiting Sir *Robert Southwel* near *Kingrode*, and en-  
 tertaining him from time to time with the Adventures of  
 his Navigation (having shared in the late Voyage with  
 Captain *Wood* to *Nova Zembla*, and formerly Sayled in  
 the *East Indies* near as high as *Japan*) Sir *Robert* on his  
 part, told him how the story of this *Hole* had amused the  
 Country ; and how the said Narrative had formerly been  
 sent to His Majesty and the *Royal Society* ; and that  
 there wanted only some courage, to find out the bottom  
 of it. The Captain presently resolved to adventure, and  
 so on the 18 and 19th. of *September* 1682. he took sever-  
 al of his men, with Ropes and Tackling fitting to de-  
 scend, with Lines to measure any Length or Depth, also  
 with Candles, Torches, and a speaking Trumpet.

What he found does much lessen the Credit and Ter-  
 rour of this *Hole*, as will appear by the Figure he took  
 thereof, and the Description following :

‘ Tis down the Tunnel from the superficies to the  
 ‘ opening of the Cavity below, 39 Yards. Then the Hole  
 ‘ spreading into an irregular oblong-figure, is in the  
 ‘ greatest

'greatest length 75 yards, and in the greatest breadth  
 '41 Yards. From the highest part of the Roof to the wa-  
 'ter, was then 19 yards. The Water was now in a Pool :  
 'at the North end, being the deepest part, it was in  
 'length 27 yards, in breadth 12, and only 5 yards and  
 'a half deep; two Rocks appeared above the Water all  
 'covered with Mud, but the water sweet and good. There  
 'was a large Circle of Mud round the Pool, and far up  
 'towards the South end, which shewed that the water  
 'has at other times been 6 Yards higher than at present.

'The Tunnel or passage down, was somewhat oblique,  
 'very Ragged and Rocky ; in some places it was two  
 'yards wide, and in some 3 or 4, but nothing observable  
 'therein, save here and there some of that Sparr which  
 'usually attends the Mines of Lead-Oar. In the way,  
 '30 yards down, there runs in, southward, a passage of 29  
 'yards in length, parallel to the superficies above. It  
 'was two and three yards high, and commonly as broad,  
 'and alike Rocky as the Tunnel, with some appearances  
 'of Sparr, but nothing else in it except a few Bats.

'The Cavity below was in like manner Rocky and  
 'very irregular, the Candles and Torches burnt clear, so  
 'as to discover the whole extent thereof ; nor was the  
 'Air any thing offensive. The three men that went down  
 'the first day stayed below two hours and a half. The  
 'next day the Captain went down, with seven or eight  
 'men, who stayed below for an hour, and observed all  
 'things.

'The bottom of this Hole where the Land-waters  
 'do gather, is 59 Yards down from the superficies of the  
 'Earth, and by good Calculation, the same bottom, is  
 'twenty yards above the highest Rising of the *Severn*,  
 'and lyes into the Land, about three miles distant from  
 'it.

'There was no other need of the speaking Trumpet,  
 'than to keep much noise, such as the like Cavity will  
 'every where afford, for otherwise those above, and  
 'those below, spoke with reasonable freedom unto each  
 'other.

*The Profile and Ground-Plot of the Concave in Pen Park,  
before described.*

A	The Superficies of the Earth.	G	Two small Rocks that appear above the water.
B	The old Lead-Oar Pit.	H	The upper part of the Water.
C	The Tunnel or Passage down.	I	The bottom of the water.
D	The long Gallery.	K	The highest mark of the water.
E	The Concave or Cell.	L	Two Rocks.
F	The upper edge of the Mud.		

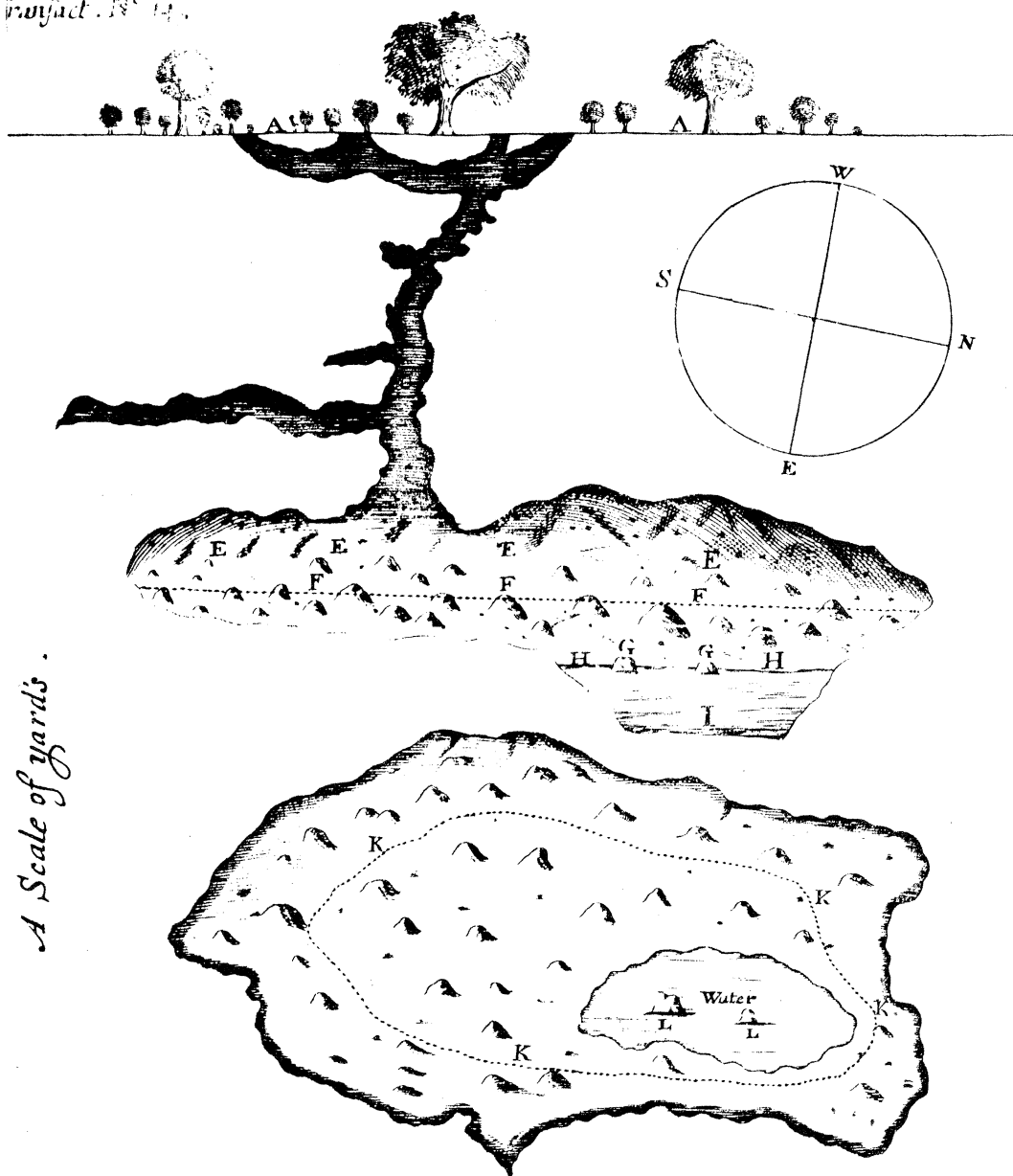
*An Extract of a Letter, relating an Experiment made for altering the Colour of the Chyle in the Lacteal Veins, by Martin Lister Esq;*

**T**He passage of the Chyle through the Intestines into the Lacteal Veins, is a thing hitherto demonstrated to the Eye by none. Dr. Lower ingeniously confesseth the ill success he had in trying with Aer, or with tinged Spirit of Wine; by neither of which he was able to force a passage. And J. Valart (*Epist. de motu Chyli*) is very positive, that however the Chyle in the Intestines may be diversly coloured; yet it is still white in the Lacteal Veins. And Diemerbroeck in his late Anatomy Published 1672. (p. 37.) affirms, *Chylum semper album inveniri in Vasis Lacteis Mesentericis & Thoracicis* -- *viridem vero rubrum alteriusve coloris, in eis a nemine habitum visum fuisse.*

Notwithstanding which, and my own former unsuccessful Tryals (*Phil. Trans. Numb. 95.*) I did not doubt but that some happy Experiment would shew the contrary; and a purposely coloured Chyle might find admittance into the Lacteal Veins though not by force, yet by the Consent and Introduction of Nature herself. The success of some late Experiments I made to this purpose, I shall here acquaint you with.

*Ex-*

Tract. N. 14.



A Scale of yards.

fig 2.

